

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 18; 21 to 23; 27; 36; and 37 have been canceled. Claims 19; 20; 28; 32; and 33 have been amended. New claims 40 to 43 have been added.

Claims 19; 20; 24 to 35; 38 to 43 remain in the application for a total of 19 claims. Of these, claim 19 is the sole independent assembly claim. Claim 38 is a method claim dependent upon claim 19.

The Examiner's time and attention during an interview conducted January 26, 2005 are appreciated. Prior to the interview, applicant submitted a DRAFT Amendment A, which amended claims 19 and 20. During the interview, the prior art documents Dereume et al US 5,639,278 and Ryan et al. US 6,576,009 were discussed. Applicant pointed out that neither Dereume nor Ryan teach or suggest a trunk including a prosthetic material defining having an interior including a seam joining opposing surfaces of the prosthetic material together to form an internal septum sized and configured to define, within at least a portion of the trunk interior, a multi-lumen flow channel configuration comprising at least a first interior lumen and a truncated second interior lumen that is shorter than the first interior lumen, and further include the presence of spaced apart stents along the first and second interior lumens that are staggered in relative to position to each other, as disclosed in Specification page 11, lines 12 to 14 and in Fig. 1. Applicant expressed the intent of advancing prosecution by amending claim 19 to define this subject matter. The Examiner also suggested further amending claim 19 to define that the septum is formed independent from the stents, as disclosed in Specification page 9, lines 1 to 3 and as shown in the drawings, which is a feature not disclosed by either Dereume or Ryan.

The amendment to claim 19 incorporates both features. The amendments to claims 32 and 33 correct a spelling error. Further amendments and additions to the claims arise from the inclusion of the staggered stents in amended claim 19.

During the interview, inventor Lee Bolduc also discussed prior art approaches to the treatment of abdominal aortic aneurysms and attendant problems, e.g., the prior problems of slippage of radially expanded stent grafts after deployment within the aorta, or the prior problems of control and adjustment when radially expanded stent grafts with integral barbs or pins were deployed. Mr. Bolduc showed demonstration prototypes brought to the interview, which

incorporated the features defined in claim 19, as now amended. Mr. Bolduc demonstrated use of a system to deploy and secure a prosthesis assembly as defined in amended claim 19.

Claims 19; 20; 24 to 35; 38 to 43 are pending and are believed to be in condition for allowance. As expressed during the interview, if the Examiner believes that questions or matters of clarification remain, applicant believes that such matters can be handled expeditiously by an interview by telephone to advance prosecution of this case, and the applicant remains committed to proceed on that basis.

Respectfully Submitted,

By


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